



FLORIDA'S VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT

OVERVIEW

The Voting Rights Restoration Act (VRRRA) is an amendment to the Florida State Constitution that will restore the voting rights of former felons who have committed nonviolent crimes. More than 1.5 million Floridians are unable to vote due to felon disenfranchisement laws; this number is approximately the same as every adult citizen living in Miami-Dade County. Florida is one of five states that permanently disenfranchises former felons. Nationally, 6.1 million felons are unable to vote, Florida accounts for nearly a quarter of those people.

THE CURRENT STATE OF VOTING RIGHTS IN FLORIDA

Currently, former felons have to appeal for clemency to have their voting rights reinstated. During his tenure as Governor, Charlie Crist (D) eased the process of clemency for former felons. Today, however, this process is nearly impossible. In 2011, newly appointed governor, Rick Scott, reversed changes made by Crist and created a waiting period for consideration of clemency. Since 2010, only 2,487 people have regained the right to vote. During this same period, the number of disenfranchised felons in the state grew by 150,000.

THE VRRRA: ITS IMPACT ON ELECTIONS & COMMUNITY

The number of Florida citizens who have lost access to the ballot due to felony convictions is 10.4%. These individuals are overwhelmingly Black and Latino. Given what we know--statistically speaking--about the voting patterns of Blacks and Latinos, it goes to stand that these voters may have been able to change the results of the 2016 Presidential election.

Moreover, an analysis done by the *Naples Daily News* found that if those with felony convictions in the state of Florida were allowed to register to vote, nearly 258,060 would register as Democrats.

The VRRRA is not just an act that has the potential to shift the balance of political power in Florida, it is also an important tool for the reintegration of felons within their communities. A 2011 Florida government study found that people released from prison whose rights were restored were three times less likely to return to prison or supervision than counterparts without the opportunity to vote.



GET INVOLVED WITH THE VRRRA!

WHERE TO GO

- Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC)
- Floridians For A Fair Democracy's: 'Say Yes To Second Chances'
- Miami Rights (Samantha Bee, "Full Frontal" Support Campaign)
- Facebook: Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
- Twitter: Floridians For A Fair Democracy

WHAT TO DO

1. SIGN THE PETITION

Your first step is to sign the petition to ensure its inclusion on the ballot!

2. COLLECT EMAIL & MAIL-IN SIGNATURES

After you've signed, encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to get involved!

3. TAKE A REGIONAL ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

The VRRRA currently needs 700,000 signatures to be included on the ballot in 2018! This resource provides two online training sessions that educate activists on the VRRRA as well as how to become a petition canvasser.

4. JOIN A CHAPTER

The FRRRC is a group of 70+ national, statewide, & local organizations (ACLU, NAACP, League of Women Voters, Latino Leadership, and others) committed to eradicating Jim Crow in Florida. Join a chapter and get involved!

5. EDUCATE OTHERS

The effects--political and social--of felon disenfranchisement are not well-known. Elect to become a community educator for your NOW chapter.

6. SPREAD THE WORD!

One of the most important aspects of passing the VRAA is getting out the word around the ballot. Use your own networks--on-the-ground and digital--to encourage people to sign the petition. Go to now.org/nap/voting-rights to access our social media toolkit.

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT



1.5 MILLION

The Voting Rights Restoration Amendment has the capacity to re-enfranchise over 1.5 million non-violent felons.



WOMEN BEHIND BARS

Between 1980 and 2014, the number of incarcerated women increased by more than 700%.



RICK SCOTT'S ELECTION

Since the 2010 election of Rick Scott only 2,487 people have been granted clemency and had their voting rights reinstated.



FUTURE ELECTIONS

The VRRRA has the potential to alter the political structure of Florida. According to a study, over 250,000 re-enfranchised felons would register as Democrats.

GET INVOLVED!



SIGN ON!

In order to push this measure forward, the ballot must acquire 700,000 signatures by January 1, 2018. It's time to sign!



TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

After you sign the petition, become a canvasser and encourage your family, friends, and people in your community to sign the ballot measure!